



Case Western Reserve Law Review

Volume 62 | Issue 3

2012

Laura Brown Chisolm

Karen Nelson Moore

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/caselrev>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Karen Nelson Moore, *Laura Brown Chisolm*, 62 Case W. Res. L. Rev. 625 (2012)

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/caselrev/vol62/iss3/5>

This Tribute is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Journals at Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Case Western Reserve Law Review by an authorized administrator of Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

LAURA BROWN CHISOLM

Karen Nelson Moore[†]

Laura Brown Chisolm was a faithful friend and cherished colleague. All of us fortunate to have known her will attest to her stellar qualities in everything she did, personally and professionally. Although taken from us far too soon, Laura's star shines brightly in our hearts and minds and memories.

I remember first meeting Laura when she was a student in my civil procedure class in the fall of her first year of law school. I had just started teaching at Case Western Reserve University School of Law ("CWRU"), and Laura's star intellect became apparent immediately. She inevitably had a deep and thoughtful response to every question; she was unfailingly prepared and always accurate. In other words, she was a new law professor's dream, especially when she volunteered to answer questions no other student would touch and filled those awkward gaps that can plague a new professor. Her comments after class reflected her penetrating insight and also her care for those less fortunate or less equipped to deal with the established legal system. It was a privilege to have her as a student.

Laura's stellar qualities were recognized by all at the law school. She graduated first in her class, with accolades from everyone who had the pleasure of teaching her and learning from her. With her outstanding record, she could have pursued the traditional routes of judicial clerkship and/or major national law firm. Instead, Laura went with her passion, working as a lawyer at the Institute for Child Advocacy here in Cleveland, demonstrating her dedication to the betterment of others, rather than focusing on financial gain or personal prestige.

[†] Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Judge Moore served on the faculty of the Case Western Reserve University School of Law from 1977 until she received her judicial commission in 1995.

Three years after graduating, Laura joined the law school's faculty. At the time there was a dubiousness at many law schools about hiring their own graduates for the faculty, but in Laura's case we had no doubt that she was extraordinary. From the beginning, students respected her first-rate mind and her compassionate character. Her classroom was devoted to the joy of learning and the exploration of complicated legal concepts; her classroom humor could be sly, but not at the expense of her students.

For the decade that we served together on the CWRU faculty, I was fortunate to count Laura as my trusted colleague and dear friend. I frequently sought out her advice on matters ranging from professional writing and classroom teaching to child rearing and gardening. Laura and I spent many lunch hours at the Botanical Gardens across the street from the law school, where she modestly demonstrated her amazing knowledge of flowers. She never flaunted her knowledge, but whether the subject was flowers or property law or the law of nonprofit organizations, her knowledge was deep and profound. We talked often of family—her daughter Adrienne and husband Mac were the stars in her universe—and she provided wise advice to me as I navigated the complexities of a young family. She was the kind of friend who could thoughtfully help solve problems; she was the colleague who would carefully read and comment on draft articles of others at the expense of time for her own work.

When it came time for me to leave the faculty, Laura was the one faculty member I requested to speak at my judicial investiture about my years at the law school. Laura honored me more than I can express simply by accepting my request. And her comments about the responsibilities of a judge motivate and guide me each day.

As you can see, Laura was a treasured student, colleague, and friend. Although she is not here with us physically, she remains a shining spirit, with her life of character, compassion, and joy motivating all who knew her to work harder to make this world better, especially for those in need. Laura, you are deeply missed.